

you have an important and responsible position. And while I am sure that it's exciting to you and maybe makes you feel good when you are lavishing your wife with these experiences, in my opinion you might try handling it a little different. Having some experience in this field, I think if it were me, you're better off when your wife asks, "how was your day dear?" you say "I was so busy I only had time for a tuna fish sandwich." Or as he told Kevin Brown often "old age, experience, and treachery will defeat youth and ambition every time."

Billy's obituary was full of the pride he had for his Italian heritage and about what America had done for him. And with justifiable pride acknowledged the journey of his parents as well as his own. This was apparent with his routine drive past the Motor Vehicle building which bears his name. It does so because his parents embedded in him those 5 simple words:

"How may I help you?"

He traveled to D.C. back in 2008 and was escorted by Linda Christiana. His trip was highlighted by dinner at the Italian Embassy with Ambassador Castellaneta. When I saw the Ambassador weeks later, he remembered Billy, and how entertaining and proud he was of his Italian heritage. He added, "he's even invited me to a Bocce tournament that I believe is at your house!"

That's our guy. And we have a letter here from the Italian Embassy:

LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY:

We, at the Embassy of Italy were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Senator Biagio "Billy" Ciotto. In his passing, Connecticut, and indeed the whole US, has lost a great statesman, and a wonderful American, proud of his Italian origins, which he never lost an opportunity to proudly recall.

The story of Senator Ciotto's life speaks clearly to his many talents and innate human touch. His generosity, kindness and dedication were a source of inspiration to the community whom he served with passion, honor, and dignity. Senator Ciotto was an exemplary civil servant, and wholeheartedly dedicated himself to serving this great Country and his fellow Americans, while never forgetting his ancestral land, Italy.

Our sincere condolences go out to Mrs. Ciotto, his family, and the entire Italian-American and American community at this moment of great loss. Senator Ciotto may be not with us anymore, but his legacy lives on, and will always do so through the many people, he touched, and inspired.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Grazie, Senator Ciotto.

The first time he met with Nancy Pelosi there was an instant bond. She had broken a barrier and was the first woman Speaker of the House. And when he met her, bursting with pride he said "Madam Speaker you have broken a barrier and as a father with two daughters I am so grateful and proud. But as a young man, I listened to your father Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. He was the first Italian Mayor of Baltimore and he had a Sunday address, he made us proud of our heritage and I listened intently to what he had to say. And now his daughter is not only the first woman Speaker of the House, but as important to people of our heritage and faith, she is the first Italian."

The bond between them was instant and lasting. A mutual admiration, so much so that after an eight year hiatus as Speaker, when we recaptured the House and took back the majority in 2018, her guest of honor at her swearing in was Billy. And with a cigar in hand and escorted by Sarah Gianni, he took it all in from his front row seat in the House Balcony.

LETTER FROM SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

Every now and then, a person comes along whose heart is so full of love and whose life is so full of kindness that he radiates joy: Such a blessed person is Billy Ciotto. Perhaps he had such generosity of spirit because of how his parents raised Biagio and because of his happy marriage to Jeanne.

Everyone loved Billy, because they knew that Billy cared. In his work, whether at the DMV or in the State Senate, where he served with John Larson, whom he loved, he made everyone feel important. In taking pride in his Italian American heritage, he respected others' pride in theirs. In his faith in God, he gave hope and charity to all. Anyone who was blessed and shaped by Billy's friendship wanted to live up to his loyalty.

Billy was in the arms of his loving family on March 19, the Feast of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of a happy death, very special to Italian Americans, and made his passage on the 20th. I hope it is a comfort to Jeanne and his children Joseph, Anthony, Julia, John, and Maria, and their grandchildren that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time. Billy will be sadly missed by all of us who loved him. In his life, Billy brought joy to the world and now he has brought his humor to Heaven.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives.

We know heaven will never be the same and he's up there with some pretty good company. To be acknowledged and loved by the entire community he served and yes to have the Italian Ambassador and the Speaker of the House eulogize you is pretty impressive. So many words of condolence for Jeanne and the family. So many stories—therefore our staff will be keeping the website open to post on what everyone sends to us of your memories with Billy. And among the first of those that we have is someone who knows something about the loss of a beloved one. Jeanne, we have here a letter from the President of the United States:

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Dear Mrs. Ciotto and Family, Please accept Jill's and my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved Billy. Your entire family is in our thoughts and prayers.

I know that this time must be difficult beyond words, and you feel like there is a hole in your heart. In the hardest of times like these, I always turn to family. It is so important to be able to share the feeling of enveloping grief and to have people you love nearby to absorb some of the worst pain.

Billy was a devoted husband and father who loved you all immensely. He spent his life building and strengthening the Ciotto family bonds, which are meant for you to lean on during hard times like this. Your family shared Billy with Connecticut and with the Nation—and thanks to your sacrifices, he was able to help our country's most vulnerable. Billy was a true public servant.

Though the grieving process never quite ends, it is my hope that you will find comfort knowing that Billy will forever be in our hearts and memories and those of so many whose lives he touched. From experience, I promise you the day will come when his memory will bring a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye. My prayer for you and your family is that day comes sooner rather than later.

Sincerely, Joe Biden.

Billy will always be with us. Provided we continue to post and tell those stories we fondly remember. The most important way he'll stay with us is if we follow his example by saying when we have the opportunity: How may I help you?

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SEAN CASTLE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Sean Castle, who passed away on June 28, 2021 at the age of 43 following an apparent heart attack. He was a beloved member of the San Rafael community and a dedicated music teacher at the local high school.

Sean was born on March 28, 1978 and attended San Rafael High School in Marin County. After graduating from UCLA, he returned to his hometown to teach music. Sean helped establish San Rafael High School's award-winning music program, dedicating his entire 20-year career to creating a supportive and enriching community for students, staff, and families. He helped develop and then manage the school's jazz band and a wind ensemble that played at homecomings and other events, and he organized the school's jazz choir and a percussion class called Steel Pans. He was respected by staff and aptly referred to as the "musical soul" of San Rafael High School. Sean's passion for music created an environment for youth to grow musically and emotionally while exploring their creativity.

Sean lived a full and vibrant life, demonstrating gratitude and generosity for all those with whom he crossed paths. He had a passion for camping, golfing, playing backgammon, supporting the Giants baseball team, and cooking meals for loved ones. Sean is survived by his fiancée, Nicole Dube; his mother, Kris Castle; his father Kent Castle; and his brother Darren Castle.

Madam Speaker, Sean's positive impact on thousands of individuals will extend well beyond his short life. I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Sean's family, friends and innumerable loved ones for their unexpected loss and in expressing our deep appreciation for his work spearheading a program that will continue to educate and inspire students for generations to come.

HONORING DR. REBECCA CRANE AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Rebecca Crane of the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in California but raised primarily in Connecticut, Rebecca returned to California in the late 1980's where she attended the University of California San Diego graduating with a degree in Visual Arts with minors in biology and chemistry. After a year of working on an